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**Michigan Department of Civil Rights and Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs
Commission to Honor Fred Korematsu at Grand Valley State University on January 30**

Lansing –The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights will honor civil rights icon Fred Korematsu on Friday, January 30 at 11:30 am. The event will take place in the Loosemore Auditorium at the Grand Valley State University Pew Campus, located at 401 West Fulton Street in Grand Rapids.

The event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the Fulton Lot at 312 West Fulton Street.

Korematsu's story is one of triumph over the injustice endured by Japanese Americans following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Born on January 30, 1919, Korematsu defied the U.S. government's order to report to an assembly center after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was convicted for his refusal and appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against him in a 6-3 decision in 1944.

After World War II, Korematsu moved to Michigan. His conviction was formally vacated on November 10, 1983 by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel based on information that the War Department had misled the Supreme Court with false allegations of espionage and sabotage. In 1998, Korematsu was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton.

Speakers at the event include:

- Matt Wesaw, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Ron Aramaki, psychotherapist and adjunct faculty at the Department of American Culture, University of Michigan
- Roland Hwang, Assistant Attorney General of Michigan, MAPAAC member and adjunct faculty at the Department of American Culture, University of Michigan
- Mary Kamidoi, internee at the Rohwer War Relocation Center in Arkansas
- Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, correspondent for NBC Asian America

Along with MAPAAC and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, the event is sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Grand Valley State University.

To learn more about MAPAAC and the Department of Civil Rights, please visit www.michigan.gov/mdcr.

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